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10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

207-02.3

	ROGERS	
	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	NOVICKI	
	GILLUM	
✓	Mattson	
	BIRD	
✓	Conlon	
	BARROWS	
	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
	CHAPMAN	
	SKINNER	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

DECEMBER 1946

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

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REPORT FOR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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January 7, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of December 1946:

Weather Conditions. Frequent storm periods, about normal temperatures, precipitation and snowfall were recorded during December. At Mammoth 5 days were clear, 8 partly cloudy and 18 cloudy. Total precipitation at this station was 1.11 inches as compared to .58 inch in 1943, .34 inch in 1944, and 1.15 inches in 1945. The maximum temperature was 44° on the 3rd and a minimum temperature of -12° was recorded on the 17th. A maximum snow depth of 8 inches was recorded at Mammoth on the 20th, but this had been reduced to 4 inches by the end of the month.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was away from the Park all during the month on assignment to the Branch of Concessions in the Director's Office. On Dec. 1 he left Chicago for Washington, D. C., to attend the Western Conference of National Park Concessioners held Dec. 3-4. On Dec. 6 he left Washington for New York, leaving on the 8th for return to Chicago. He left Chicago for Denver on Dec. 13, where he was on annual leave through the end of the month.

On Dec. 5 we received notice of approval of transfer and promotion for Chief Ranger Barrows to the position of Forester, P-4, Region Two Office. On Dec. 10, notice of approval of transfer of District Ranger Hugh B. Ebert to Blue Ridge Parkway was received. These transfers will be effective early in January.

Mrs. Agnes E. Welch entered on duty as Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-3, Dec. 23, by transfer from the Casper Rent Control Office, O.P.A., Casper, Wyoming. Mrs. Welch had previously been employed in the Park from March to September 1938.

David W. Pierson was promoted from Buffalo Herder, CPC-6, to the same, CPC-7, effective December 15, 1946.

Asst. Supt. Johnston, Chief Ranger Barrows, and Asst. to Supt. Joffe attended the Dec. 10 meeting of the Gardiner Commercial Club where several matters affecting the Park were discussed.

On Dec. 12, James Urquhart, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, and Foresters Dwinelle, Redmon, and Fahnestock, also of the Gallatin National Forest, were in for discussion of location of the Montana Power Line through Yankee Jim Canyon. Montana Power Company has purchased the light plant in Gardiner and will furnish power for that community.

January 7, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of December 1946:

Weather Conditions. Frequent storm periods, about normal temperatures, precipitation and snowfall were recorded during December. At Gardiner 3 days were clear, 8 partly cloudy and 18 cloudy. Total precipitation at this station was 1.11 inches as compared to .58 inch in 1945, .94 inch in 1944, and 1.15 inches in 1943. The maximum temperature was 44° on the 3rd and a minimum temperature of -12° was recorded on the 17th. A maximum snow depth of 2 inches was recorded at Gardiner on the 24th, but this had been reduced to .1 inches by the end of the month.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was away from the Park all during the month on assignment to the Branch of Concessions in the Director's Office. On Dec. 1 he left Chicago for Washington, D. C., to attend the Western Conference of National Park Concessioners held Dec. 3-4. On Dec. 6 he left Washington for New York, leaving on the 8th for return to Chicago. He left Chicago for Denver on Dec. 15, where he was on annual leave through the end of the month.

On Dec. 5 we received notice of approval of transfer and promotion for Chief Ranger Barrows to the position of Forester, P-4, Region Two Office. On Dec. 10, notice of approval of transfer of District Ranger Hugh E. Scott to Glacier Ridge Ranger was received. These transfers will be effective early in January.

Mrs. Agnes S. Walsh entered on duty as Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-5, Dec. 23, by transfer from the Casper Area Control Office, U.S.F.S., Casper, Wyoming. Mrs. Walsh had previously been employed in the Park from March to September 1943.

David W. Pierson was promoted from Buffalo Barber, WG-3, to the same, WG-7, effective December 15, 1946.

Asst. Supt. Johnston, Chief Ranger Barrows, and Asst. Ranger Joffe attended the Dec. 10 meeting of the Gardiner Commercial Club where several matters affecting the Park were discussed.

On Dec. 12, James Urquhart, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, and Forresters Dwinelle, Redmon, and Rabenstock, also of the Gallatin National Forest, were in for discussion of location of the Montana Power Line through Yankee Jim Canyon. Montana Power Company has purchased the light plant in Gardiner and will furnish power for that community.

On Dec. 14-15, Chief Ranger Barrows, Chief Naturalist Condon, and Asst. Chief Ranger Skinner attended the annual Montana Wildlife Federation meeting in Helena, Montana, where recommendations for legislative action and other matters of particular concern to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks were brought up for discussion and action.

On Dec. 19, Asst. Supt. Johnston, Chief Ranger Barrows, Asst. Chief Ranger Skinner, Chief Naturalist Condon, and Asst. to Supt. Joffe attended a meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club, Livingston, Montana. Mr. Condon showed a motion picture on wildlife and gave a talk before the audience of 62 persons.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson was in the Region Two Office from Dec. 2-15 discussing revision of the Yellowstone Master Plan.

The President declared a half holiday in the afternoon of December 24. Yellowstone employees were excused at noon, and the few who had to work received holiday pay.

On December 31, 1946, President Truman issued Proclamation No. 2714 proclaiming the cessation of hostilities of World War II.

Inspections. Fred G. Bussey, Chief Clerk, Glacier National Park, left Yellowstone for return to Glacier December 3.

General Publicity. On Dec. 5, a press release was mailed to newspapers in neighboring states covering the arrest of three poachers who killed an elk in Gallatin section near the highway on Dec. 1.

The holiday issue of Nature Notes was mailed to a list of 404 names on December 11-12.

Road and Trail Maintenance. Snow plowing on the Gardiner to Cooke road was almost a continuous operation, most of the work being needed between the Lamar ranger station and Cooke. Snow depths in that area is between 30 and 36 inches All plowing to date on this section has been with the push type plows. Roads in the Mammoth area were sanded several times because of icy conditions.

A small crew of 4 to 6 men under foreman Peter Borwick rebuilt the small log bridge over Glen Creek on the Bunsen Peak loop road. When not working on the bridge they were peeling logs for guard rail. This same crew is also working on the Opal Hot Springs job under Major Repair and Rehabilitation program.

The road from Mammoth to West Yellowstone was plowed out the first part of the month in order to haul in some bridge plank purchased from a saw mill at West Yellowstone.

Road equipment received during the month was one new Quickway truck shovel.

On Dec. 14-15, Chief Ranger Barrows, Chief Naturalist Condon, and Asst. Chief Ranger Skinner attended the annual Montana Wildlife Federation meeting in Helena, Montana, where recommendations for legislative action and other matters of particular concern to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks were brought up for discussion and action.

On Dec. 19, Asst. Supt. Johnston, Chief Ranger Barrows, Asst. Chief Ranger Skinner, Chief Naturalist Condon, and Asst. to Supt. Joffe attended a meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club, Livingston, Montana. Mr. Condon showed a motion picture on wildlife and gave a talk before the audience of 62 persons.

Resident Landscape Architect Ketchum was in the Region Two Office from Dec. 2-15 discussing revision of the Yellowstone Master Plan.

The President declared a half holiday in the afternoon of December 24. Yellowstone employees were excused at noon, and the few who had to work received holiday pay.

On December 31, 1946, President Truman issued Proclamation No. 2714 proclaiming the cessation of hostilities of World War II.

Inspections. Fred G. Bussey, Chief Clerk, Glacier National Park, left Yellowstone for return to Glacier December 3.

General Publicity. On Dec. 3, a press release was mailed to newspapers in neighboring states covering the arrest of three poachers who killed an elk in Gallatin section near the highway on Dec. 1.

The holiday issue of Nature Notes was mailed to a list of 1,0[illegible] names on December 11-12.

Road and Trail Maintenance. Snow plowing on the Gardiner to Cooke road was almost a continuous operation, most of the work being needed between the Lamar ranger station and Cooke. Snow depths in that area is between 30 and 36 inches. All plowing to date on this section has been with the power type plows. Roads in the Mammoth area were sanded several times because of icy conditions.

A small crew of 4 to 6 men under foreman Peter Sorwick rebuilt the small log bridge over Glen Creek on the Bunsen Peak loop road. Then not working on the bridge they were peeling logs for guard rail. This same crew is also working on the Coal Kot Springs job under Major Repair and Rehabilitation program.

The road from Mammoth to East Yellowstone was plowed out the first part of the month in order to haul in some bridge plank purchased from a saw mill at East Yellowstone.

Road equipment received during the month was one new Galloway truck shovel.

New Construction. Construction work on projects 201.2, 201.3 and 201.4, all temporary houses, at Mammoth, continued throughout the month, somewhat hampered by cold weather. Foundations are complete for all three buildings, the outside walls up on all three, and the roof in place on two with the exception of shingles.

MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM. Work continues on project No. 103-2, Renovation of Museum Specimens. Work was also started on project No. 227-13, Grounds at Mammoth. The work under this project covers the removal of the tennis court at Opal Hot Spring and the building of a dike and walk. Work was also started on project No. 201-23, School and Community Building, Mammoth.

Concessioners. Mr. J. E. Haynes, President, Haynes, Inc., was in the Park on December 6.

Interpretive Services. The only program presented during the month was the presentation of a motion picture (1200 ft. colored) on wildlife and a discussion of Yellowstone wildlife by Park Naturalist Condon to the Livingston Rod and Gun Club on Dec.19. There were 52 persons in attendance.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Work continued on cleaning of the museum cases at Mammoth Museum and cleaning and renovation of wayside exhibits brought in from out in the Park.

A careful review was made of signs needed to properly label features and to present to the public proper information on certain outstanding phenomena. After making this review a detailed list of signs needed and the textual matter to go on them was prepared. These signs are now being placed on order by the Park Engineer.

Five copies of the "History of Yellowstone National Park" by James D. Hamilton were returned from the Dieter Bookbinding Company at the end of the month and will be sent to the proper recipients of these copies soon. A large shipment of periodicals, by volumes, were sent to the Dieter Bookbinding Company for binding and return to the Yellowstone Library.

Research and Observation. Plans are progressing for research work on moose to be done by former park ranger naturalist John McMillan. During the month papers were submitted for his appointment as a research collaborator with the National Park Service. It is anticipated that this appointment will be approved and we can render considerable aid to Mr. McMillan in his research work.

One red fox, found dead by District Ranger Rudolf Grimm under U. S. Commissioner Allcox's front porch, was brought to the museum and skinned by Park Naturalist Brodrick. The fox apparently died of starvation since it was in a very poor condition and its digestive tract was entirely devoid of food. It is possible that we may have this skin prepared as a mount.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. During the month of December travel was possible only over the road between the north and northeast entrances, which is kept open all winter. A total of 305 visitors entered the park in 153 vehicles as compared to 479 visitors in 156 vehicles for the same month last year.

Ranger Service. Patrol activities were continued throughout December on the same basis as during the month of November. The open elk season in Montana areas adjacent to the north boundary continue to require regular patrols. Trapping season in areas adjoining the remote Thorofare area closed on December 20 and the two rangers assigned to patrol this area on skis completed their assignment and reported to park headquarters. Night patrols in the Gallatin area and on the road through Gene Ranch area were continued throughout the month. Rangers completed repairs on the Gene Ranch elk trap and constructed a new feed rack for horses at Tower Falls Ranger Station.

Police Protection. One case, which involved the killing of an elk inside the park near Black Butte Creek in the Gallatin area was presented before the U.S. Commissioner. The three defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to serve 100 hours in jail and pay a fine of $150 each. No more poaching in the Gallatin area has occurred since these men were apprehended.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BUFFALO. In accordance with plans being worked out in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, it is planned to capture as many buffalo as possible in the Lamar Valley area sometime in February for vaccination of calves and testing of others in connection with pathological studies pertaining to brucellosis infection.

ELK. Northern area. Through Dec. 26 a total of 213 elk had been reported taken by hunters and checked through the Yanigan Checking Station. This does not include the early season kill in the Railroaring to Cooke area which has not yet been reported.

In accordance with a recommendation of the Absaroka Conservation Committee, a large area north of the park, extending some five or six miles from Pole Creek near Jardine to Bassett Creek near Corwin, was temporarily closed to big game hunting by the State Fish and Game Commission on November 16 for the purpose of encouraging elk migration from the park. By the end of December there were some 800 elk in this area and representatives of the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, serving on a special four-man committee to determine when sufficient migration had occurred to warrant opening of the area to hunting, urged that the area be opened. The two other members of this committee, representing the Absaroka Conservation Committee and the State Fish and Game Commission, were holding out at close of the month for no opening of the season. Just what will result from this deadlock is problematical, but it is hoped that some early decision in the matter can be reached.

First considerable drift of elk out of the park occurred during the night of December 29 with our first extended period of sub-zero temperatures. Small migrations were continuing to close of the period.

Gallatin area: Upon recommendation of the Gallatin Conservation Committee last spring, the State Fish and Game Commission had set a quota of 300 elk to be removed from this area by hunting. Daily kills, however, became so great after October 28 that a total kill of 667, with an estimate of 70 which subsequently died of gun-shot wounds, or a total reduction of 737, occurred before the season could be closed on November 2. Although some local sportsmen in Gallatin County look upon this season's kill as a calamity, from the National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service points of view such a reduction was indicated. Our recommendation last spring was for reduction of 700 to 800 head. Most members of the Gallatin Conservation Committee generally agreed that such reduction was desirable but felt that the figure of 400 should be set "because it would be greatly exceeded anyway before the season could be closed."

PRONGHORN. A group of five or six men connected with wildlife restoration work for the State of Montana are expected to arrive in the park during the early part of January to assist in setting up a portable trap in the area between Gardiner and Reese Creek. When this trap has been set up and conditions appear favorable, an attempt will be made to trap as many of the surplus pronghorn or antelope as possible this winter for transplanting in various areas of Montana.

Forest Fire Protection. On Dec. 3, Asst. Chief Ranger Chapman, Asst. Supt. Johnston, Foreman-Mechanic Miller, District Ranger Short, and Truck Driver Hinkle went to Ogden, Utah to obtain and bring back to Yellowstone three fire trucks and some other surplus equipment. An attempt was also made while on this trip to determine the availability of necessary accessories for the fire pumps with which the trucks are equipped. It was impossible to obtain any of these items at the depot.

On Dec. 11, we received 5,000 feet of 1½" D.J.A.L. hose to equip the new fire trucks. This hose was secured through regular channels from the War Assets Administration.

In the office work was accomplished on annual revisions, the step-up plan, and fire control aide training plans. Property cards for all forest fire fighting property were assembled, filed and indexed.

Trails. The annual trail report covering trail work accomplished and expenditures made during the past calendar year on this work was written and submitted to the Park Engineer.

Accidents. One motor vehicle accident was reported during the month. This accident, which was not of a serious nature, occurred on the highway between Mammoth and the North Entrance.

Miscellaneous. On December 3, a used piano was obtained for Amuseth Chapel, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Tom LaJeunesse, Manager of the Murray Hotel, Livingston, Montana.

Gallatin area. Upon recommendation [illegible] fall spring, the State Fish and Game Commission [illegible] hunted from this area by [illegible]. [illegible] October 28 that a total kill of 587, with an estimate [illegible] died of gun-shot wounds, or a total reduction [illegible] would be closed on November 2. Although [illegible] from this season's kill as a calamity, from the [illegible] U. S. Forest Service points of view such a reduction was [illegible] mendation last spring was for reduction of [illegible] Gallatin Conservation Committee generally agreed [illegible] this lot felt that the figure of [illegible] exceeded anyway before the season could be closed.

PRONGHORN. A group of five or six [illegible] Fish and Game [illegible] the State of Montana are expected to arrive in [illegible] part of January to assist in setting up a portable trap [illegible] Willow and Lease Creek. [illegible] favorable, an attempt will be made to trap as many [illegible] possible as possible this winter for transplanting [illegible]

Forest Fire Protection. On Dec. 7, [illegible] Johnson, Fireman-mechanic [illegible], District [illegible] went to Ogden, Utah to obtain and bring back to [illegible] and some other surplus equipment. An attempt [illegible] to determine the availability of necessary accessories [illegible] which the trucks are equipped. It was impossible to obtain [illegible] at the depot.

On Dec. 11, we received 5,[illegible] feet of [illegible] fire trucks. This hose was secured through [illegible] Administration.

In [illegible] [illegible] property were assembled, filed and indexed.

Trails. The annual [illegible] expected [illegible] started in the last quarter.

Buildings. [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] buildings.

Miscellaneous. On December 3, [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible].

The regular monthly meeting of Local 465, National Federation of Federal Employees, was held December 9, in the Canteen.

The Mammoth school children presented a fine Christmas program at the Canteen on December 20. After the program Santa arrived with treats for all the boys and girls, including fruit, candy, popcorn and nuts in cellophane bags. Pryor Stores contributed fruit and popcorn for 75 children while Local 465, N.F.F.E., furnished candy and nuts, also new Christmas tree decorations. Incidentally, Santa Claus also surprised Harry Friechman with a fine fishing rod, a retirement present from his fellow employees. The Christmas Committee this year consisted of Mrs. Vi Roylance, Chairman, Mrs. Lois Shorey, Mrs. Vilas Haines, Mr. Roland Sutherscott, and Mr. William Proper. On Christmas Eve the young folk of the community sang carols from door to door.

A son, James Arnold, was born to Chief Warrant Officer and Mrs. Arnold Quist at Park Hospital, Livingston, Montana, on December 25. Mrs. Quist was formerly our Accounting Clerk.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

In quintuple.

cc: Region Two (in dupl.)

File (2)

JJ/wsh

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